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FREE POLAND

Joint Declaration by the Representatives-in-Exile of the Polish Socialist Party and the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland (Bund)

The Joint Declaration by the Representatives-in-Exile of the Polish Socialist Party and the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland who represent today the entire Polish Labor Movement

The fate and future existence of an independent Poland is organically tied up with the course of the present war and its ultimate outcome. In this most crucial period in the history of civilized humanity the representatives-in-exile of the Polish Socialist Party and the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland deem it their duty to make the following declaration:

More than two years have already gone by since Hitler invaded Poland. For more than two years now the Polish people have been existing within the grip of a ruthless terror. Lawlessness and violence reign on Polish soil, revealing to the world Hitler's "New Order" in its bloodiest aspect. The Polish masses, however, in their millions, have made before the

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people—join hands internally across the ghetto walls. The Polish soldiers, too, fighting on many fronts in the present war, shed their blood and offer their lives in the great struggle for the freedom of all peoples.

The first and primary objective of the war is a military defeat of the "Axis" powers—Germany, Japan, Italy—and with it the total destruction of Nazism, Fascism and Japanese militarism. In order to achieve victory it is necessary to have the complete co-operation of all nations and states who participate in this war against the "Axis" countries. Particularly of decisive importance is the participation of the United States of America on the side of the Allies—both because of her military strength and her great industrial capacity which makes the United States the arsenal of democracy supplying arms, airplanes and war equipment to Great Britain, Soviet Russia, Poland and all other countries engaged in this great struggle.

A role of vital importance in this war against the "Axis" is also being played by the underground front of revolutionaries who struggle in their countries against Nazism and Fascism. At this very moment the underground movement is undermining the strength of the aggressors. And, when the military power of the "Axis" will be destroyed, this underground front will supply those social forces that will pave the way for a new, free Europe.

The struggle that the Polish people is now waging on the side of the Allies is consecrated by the eternal ideals of freedom, equality and fraternity. The movements of the workers and of the peasants were always the torch-bearers of these ideals. These movements fought for the democratization of life in Poland, against all political, social and national oppression. The movement of workers and peasants struggled

national minorities of Poland were subjected, as well as against the policy of collaboration with Hitler Germany and the attempts to transplant Nazi ideology on Polish soil. The Polish and the Jewish masses, and this goes without saying, by the ideals and principles of democracy. The labor movement

The present war which, on September 1, 1939, commenced with a Nazi attack upon Poland has now, as a result of Japanese treachery at Pearl Harbor and the declarations of war against the United States by Italy and Germany, become a World War.

The fate and future existence of an independent Poland is organically tied up with the course of the present war and its ultimate outcome. In this most crucial period in the history of civilized humanity the representatives-in-exile of the Polish Socialist Party and the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland deem it their duty to make the following declaration:

More than two years have already gone by since Hitler invaded Poland. For more than two years now the Polish people have been existing within the grip of a ruthless terror. Lawlessness and violence reign on Polish soil, revealing to the world Hitler's "New Order" in its bloodiest aspect. The Polish masses, however, refuse to bow their heads before the mailed fist of Nazism. Under unprecedented conditions of terror and oppression the masses of Poland—workers, peasants and intellectuals—struggle heroically against the aggressor. The Polish and Jewish masses, united in their common misfortune, conscious of their common fate and goal

to restore the independence of their country, to re-build Poland upon a new foundation—to return the country to its people—join hands fraternally across the ghetto-walls. The Polish soldiers, too, fighting on many fronts in the present war, shed their blood and offer their lives in the great struggle for the freedom of all peoples.

The first and primary objective of the war is a military defeat of the "Axis" powers—Germany, Japan, Italy—and with it the total destruction of Nazism, Fascism and Japanese militarism. In order to achieve victory it is necessary to have the complete co-operation of all nations and states who participate in this war against the "Axis" countries. Particularly of decisive importance is the participation of the United States of America on the side of the Allies—both because of her military strength and her great industrial capacity which makes the United States the arsenal of democracy, supplying arms, airplanes and war equipment to Great Britain, Soviet Russia, Poland and all other countries engaged in this great struggle.

A role of vital importance in this war against the "Axis" is also being played by the underground front of revolutionists who struggle in their countries against Nazism and Fascism. At this very moment the underground movement is undermining the strength of the aggressors. And, when the military power of the "Axis" will be destroyed, this underground front will supply those social forces that will pave the way for a new, free Europe.

The struggle that the Polish people is now waging on the side of the Allies is consecrated by the eternal ideals of freedom, equality and fraternity. The movements of the workers and of the peasants were always the torch-bearers of these ideals. These movements fought for the democratization of life in Poland, against all political, social and national oppression. The movement of workers and peasants struggled

incessantly against all forms of dictatorship and the brutal methods of violence to which the democratic opposition and national minorities of Poland were subjected, as well as against the policy of collaboration with Hitler Germany and the attempts to transplant Nazi ideology on Polish soil. The Polish and the Jewish masses waged this great struggle under the banners of the Polish Socialist Party and the General Jewish Workers' Union (Bund).

The vast majority of the Polish people is inspired today by the ideals and principles of democracy. The labor movement of Poland, through its representatives-in-exile, pledges to devote all its strength and energy towards the realization of these ideals and principles in life.

When the "Axis" powers are defeated and victory is achieved Poland will rise again, re-built upon the foundations of democracy and social justice. Together with the other liberated countries the Polish Republic will create a lasting Union of Free Peoples, a basis for the future co-operation of all nations in equality and freedom. In the new social system of Poland there will be no room either for the existence or the rise of privileged groups and privileged social classes. Political power will be vested in the people who are to be guaranteed the democratic rights of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, the right to worship, an universal system of education and *habeas corpus*. A democratically-elected government and parliament responsible to the people, independent courts of justice and democratic self-government will form the political order of new Poland.

All citizens of Poland—regardless of race or creed—will be guaranteed the fullest political, economic and cultural equality. There will be no room in new Poland for nationalism and anti-Semitism.

We believe that there is only one true solution for the so-called Jewish question: to assure the Jewish population of Poland of complete equality and cultural autonomy. All attempts to solve the Jewish question through forced immigration, partial or complete, and by methods of coercion or by exercising moral and economic pressure will be rejected as contrary to the principles of democracy.

The economy of Poland will have to be reorganized on a planned basis which will exclude all economic exploitation. It will be controlled and regulated by the people in a democratic manner.

All citizens will be guaranteed the right to work and the right to benefit in a just measure from the national income. Following the expulsion of the invader from Polish soil agrarian reforms will be instituted at once which will grant the peasant the right to his land. All large industrial and commercial enterprises including the financial apparatus of the country shall be publicly owned and operated. Peasant holdings, handicraft establishments, small industrial and trading enterprises as well as co-operatives shall receive government subsidies and protection. The Government shall also create proper protection for labor, for the health of the working masses and guarantee them the benefits of a democratically-organized social security system.

Post-War Poland, reconstructed upon these principles, will be able to develop economically at an accelerated pace, for the benefit of all the people of the country.

To realize these aims in life the organized Polish workers and the Jewish workers of Poland unite with the struggling laboring masses everywhere. Our slogan is: LIBERTY FOR US AND LIBERTY FOR YOU. For we firmly believe in the victory of the forces of democracy. After this war, want, exploitation and the threat of new wars will forever disappear

from the civilized world. The victory of democracy will pave the way for the triumph of liberty, economic security, peace, political and social democracy—for the cardinal principles of a world socialist order.

*Representatives-in-Exile of the
POLISH SOCIALIST PARTY (P.P.S.)
& THE GENERAL JEWISH WORKERS' UNION
OF POLAND (Bund).*

New York, N. Y., December 15, 1941

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